# VIEWS

IN THE

# MAURITIUS, OR ISLE OF FRANCE,

DRAWN FROM NATURE, BY

## T. BRADSHAW, ESQ.

LATE OF HIS MAJESTY'S CIVIL SERVICE IN THAT ISLAND;

AND ON STONE BY

## WILLIAM RIDER, OF LEAMINGTON.

WITH A MEMOIR OF THE ISLAND, AND A DESCRIPTION OF EACH VIEW.




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# LIST OF PLATES.

TO

HIS MAJESTY, WILLIAM THE FOURTH,

THESE

# VIEWS IN THE MAURITIUS

ARE, WITH

His Majesty's Gracious Permission,

VERY HUMBLY DEDICATED

BY HIS DUTIFUL SUBJECTS AND SERVANTS,

T. BRADSHAW,

AND

W. RIDER.

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# THE MAURITIUS.

A detailed account of the Mauritius would scarcely be consistent with a work of this nature, but to those who are unacquainted with that colony the following memoir may not be unacceptable.

The Mauritius, or Isle of France, was first discovered in the year 1507, by the Portuguese, and seen in 1598 by the Dutch, who formed a settlement there in 1644; they abandoned it in 1712, and in the year 1715 it was occupied by the French, in whose possession it remained until captured by the English in 1810. Its acquisition by this country was a matter rather of negative than of positive importance, as it is by no means a very productive island, but, whilst it remained in the possession of the French, its excellent harbour offered during the war a secure Asylum to privateers and other vessels, which, cruizing in the track of the homeward bound Indiamen, made frequent captures, and escaped with their prizes into the harbours of Mauritius. It was therefore resolved to add this to the many colonial conquests of Great Britain, and a land force consisting of about 12,000 men, composed partly of native troops and partly of European soldiers, under the command of general the Hon. John Abercromby, combined with a naval force of about 20 vessels of war, with a numerous fleet of transports under admiral Bertie, were dispatched from India and the Cape of Good Hope for this purpose. A formidable resistance was expected, from the many defences with which the French had fortified the only part of the island thought to be accessible to a force of this nature and extent: from its being surrounded by a coral reef, it was supposed that it could not be approached by ships of war at any other point than at Port Louis. The British army having effected a landing on a part of the coast supposed to be impracticable, little advantage could be taken of its natural or artificial defences, and, after a slight show of resistance, the island capitulated. At the peace of 1815 it was finally ceded to the crown of England, and became a British possession.

Mauritius is in length about 35 miles, and 28 in breadth; its circumference is about 95 miles; it is divided into nine districts: Port Louis, Pamplemousses, Rivière du Rempart, Flacq, Grand Port, Savanne, Rivière Noire, Plaines Wilhems, Moka; of these Port Louis is the principal, and the capital of the same name is the only town in the Island. The Mauritius is not considered so fertile as its sister island, Bourbon, from which it is distant about 100 miles. Its principal

productions were, till within these few years, Indian corn, coffee, cloves, nutmegs, a small quantity of indigo, and some sugar; but the latter, since the removal of the extra duty on sugar of East Indian growth in 1825, has been almost exclusively cultivated throughout the island; 30,000 tons are annually sent to this country and other parts of Europe. There is every reason to believe that this island, as well as Bourbon (in which there is a volcano occasionally in a state of eruption), is of volcanic origin, the stone throughout both islands having evidently passed through the action of fire. The two islands, it has been thought, must originally have been united, and that they may have formed a part of Madagascar, which lies 300 miles west of the Mauritius; their separation having been the result of some tremendous convulsion of nature.

The soil of the Mauritius, though not generally rich, is favorable to the cultivation, of the sugar cane; it consists for the most part, of red clay, which is in some parts rich and loamy, in others sandy and poor; but the most fertile spots in the island are those where the ground is covered with porous stones called "Rocailles," evidently volcanic, and possessing the valuable qualities, as to productiveness, attributed to the lava of Vesuvius.

Amongst the many improvements for which the colony is indebted to Sir Robert Farquhar, who was governor from the capture in 1810 to the beginning of the year 1823, should be mentioned the amended state of the roads; they have been still further improved by governor Sir Lowry Cole, who has the merit of having introduced the Mac Adam principle, which has now been applied both to the streets of Port Louis and to all the principal roads in the colony. They are kept in repair chiefly by native convicts from India, of whom there are from 600 to 700 in the island: the expence of maintaining these men is chiefly defrayed by a tax on the inhabitants; they are placed under the orders of a general superintendant, subject to whom are various subordinates, who act as overseers of the labours of the convicts. Most of these men have been banished for minor offences; they are, in general, quiet and orderly, and are a great advantage to the colony. The roads were so bad, when first the island was captured, as to bid defiance to all attempts to use a vehicle of any other kind than the rudest description of cart. They were formed either of large unbroken stones and masses of rock, or of the soft red clay, which latter, in wet weather, became one continued slough; the principal roads throughout the colony are now, however, surpassed by few turnpike roads in England. From Port Louis to Mahébourg, the port on the South-Eastern Coast, and next in consideration to that of Port Louis, the road lies directly across the island, and it was so extremely bad, that, though the distance was not quite 30 miles, it formed an entire and very fatiguing day's journey, great part of the road lying through a thick wood, the trees growing close to it on each side, rendering it impervious even to the ardent rays of a tropical sun, and that which was (par excellence) denominated a road, was converted during the wet season into the bed of a rapid stream, presenting large stones and masses of rock, forming in many places what resembled rugged steps, with intervals of several feet between each, the water flowing in cascades over them.—Some idea may thus be formed, as well of the inconvenience arising from the want of a more ready communication with the

second military station in the island, as of the great difficulties to be encountered in constructing a permanent good road through such a line of country. Strong working parties, from each of the regiments in garrison, were employed for this purpose, in addition to a company of the staff corps at that time stationed in the Mauritius, and many of the Indian convicts; by their united skill and perseverance this undertaking (which was one of great local interest), having been commenced in the year 1816, was, after more than seven years' labour, effectually completed; and the journey from Port Louis to Mahébourg has thus become little more than a pleasant morning's drive. The improvement in the roads has, as might be supposed, led to the substitution of wheel carriages for the palankeens which were before exclusively made use of. Few of the richer planters, living in the plains, are now without some sort of European carriage.

The temperature, as will be inferred from the latitude, is generally high; the climate is however more healthy than is usual within the tropics, and there are seasons of the year in which it is extremely agreeable. During the hot season, viz. from the beginning of November to the beginning of May, the tropical rains prevail, accompanied with frequent and violent storms of thunder and lightning; this is also the season in which hurricanes occur. The average height of the thermometer during these months may be stated at 83° in the shade, that is, it ranges from 76° to 90°; during the remaining part of the year the average may be fixed at about ten degrees lower. In May the heat begins to abate, and a fresh elastic breeze, varying from N. E. to S. E., sufficiently counteracts the ardent blaze of the sun to admit of being out during the day, which is never attempted during the extreme heat; by those who value, and are in a situation to consult, either their health or comfort. This breeze increases in degree and freshness in the month of June; in July and August it amounts to a gale, which blows sometimes for weeks together; and, from the end of May to the end of October, a shower of rain is as great a rarity as it is generally a relief.

The population of this, as of most slave colonies, presents a fearful majority of black over white inhabitants. The latter amount to about 8000, whilst the former, by recent returns, exceed 84,000, viz. 15,000 free blacks, and 69,000 slaves. The original black population consisted of Africans imported by the early settlers, chiefly from the coast of Mozambique and the island of Madagascar. There are but few English proprietors of land; the planters are, for the most part, French, or the descendants of the French functionaries who since the island was first possessed by France have, at different times, held appointments there.

The ordinary military force of the colony consists of two infantry regiments, a company of artillery, commanded by a field officer, a commanding field officer of engineers, with two junior officers of that corps; there are at present three regiments of the line in garrison, viz: the twenty-ninth, eighty-second, and ninety-ninth. The military staff in the Mauritius has been reduced of late years, by uniting the office of governor with the command of the troops in the person of a lieutenant general.

The Dutch, when they first took possession of the island, found it desolate

and uninhabited, except by innumerable large and ferocious rats, which, as appears from the old accounts of the island, actually expelled the first settlers, who did not venture again to face them until they were enabled to return re-inforced and properly prepared to make head against these formidable opponents to colonization—by the way, those who visit the Mauritius are never long in discovering that the Dutch settlers did not succeed in totally eradicating the breed of this destructive animal. By an official return, published in 1826, about 830,000 were caught in that year, and not fewer than that number are destroyed annually.

The scenery of the Mauritius is mountainous and in the highest degree picturesque. The mountains, which are not very lofty, have for the most part craggy and precipitous summits, assuming an endless variety of singular forms; they rise abruptly from the most level plains. The country abounds also in ravines of several hundred feet in depth, the sides of which are in many instances beautifully clothed with wood, diversified by masses of rock, and at the base of the ravines flow rapid mountain torrents, which, rising in the neighbouring heights, form, as they pursue their course to the sea, many considerable cascades, presenting, with the rich surrounding scenery, most admirable and splendid coups d'œil.

The Mauritius, in addition to its claim to notice from its many picturesque recommendations, derives further interest from its connexion with St. Pierre's romantic story of Paul and Virginia, to which few are strangers. The descriptions in this interesting tale are quite characteristic of the scenery of the island: in the course of this work will be given a view of the spot where St. Pierre represents his hero and heroine to have been interred.

## PORT LOUIS.

Port Louis, the capital, is situated on the N. W. side of the island, in a semi-circular valley, formed by an amphitheatre of mountains: of these, the highest, and nearly the central point of the range, is that denominated "the Pouce," from the strong resemblance of its summit to the human thumb. The height of this mountain is 2887 English feet. Port Louis, like most towns in hot climates, occupies a great extent of ground, compared with the amount of its population. It has three distinct divisions; the principal town, and two suburbs. The former is for the most part inhabited by the merchants and tradespeople, who are principally French; the eastern suburb being occupied by the Malabars, and other Indians, whilst the western is the abode of the mulattoes and affranchised negroes of African origin. It is somewhat remarkable how distinct a line is drawn, and jealously adhered to, by the three classes in regard to residence. The population of Port Louis consists of

| | |
|---|---|
| 2387 | whites |
| 7511 | free blacks |
| 15,717 | slaves |
| 25,615 | |

exclusive of the garrison, the government slaves, &c., making the entire population amount to little short of 30,000 souls.

Prior to a destructive fire which occurred in 1816, by which a large and by far the most wealthy part of the town was consumed, the buildings were principally of wood, but since this calamitous event most of the houses have been re-constructed in stone, and a generally improved style of building has been adopted. The island abounds in stone: the face of the country is, in some parts, covered with large stones and rocks. Coral also, which, when first taken out of the sea, is easily sawed into any shape, has been advantageously employed in building. The ground on which Port Louis stands approaches to a square; the principal town reaches from the plain in its rear, called the "Champ de Mars," to the harbour, the suburbs, extending towards the east and west, like two long wings, making the length of the whole above two miles and a half, in a direct line, but without any corresponding breadth, the distance between the Champ de Mars and the harbour scarcely exceeding a quarter of a mile. Much improvement has taken place in the town of Port Louis since its occupation by the English; the streets are now Mac Adamized and kept in good order, whereas, formerly, not a street was passable for a carriage, and scarcely for a cart: in fact, at the capture of the island in 1810, there was but a single European carriage in the Colony; this was an English curricle, the owner of which, when he desired to take a drive, had his vehicle led up to the Champ de Mars, then the only level piece of ground, whither he followed on foot or in a palankeen. When his airing was concluded he sent away his carriage, the state of the streets not allowing him to venture to drive it home. The Champ de Mars is a green plain, about a mile in circumference, immediately in the rear of the town, at the base of the mountains. This outlet is a source both of health and recreation to the residents in Port Louis: in the cool of the evening it is the general rendezvous; open carriages and horsemen parade the circular drive, whilst numerous parties of pedestrians are scattered over the turf. The French ladies, who during the day keep themselves hermetically sealed up in their houses, lest a "coup de soleil," or an equally dreaded "coup d'air" should reach them, now venture forth to inhale the evening breeze, and frequently continue their moonlight promenade till a late hour, when they retire to conclude the evening with music or dancing. The English resident families associate but little with the French, and they rarely meet, excepting at the annual ball at Government-house, given in honor of his Majesty's birthday. The French residents, it must be admitted, are uniformly hospitable, and the absence of social intercourse certainly does not originate with them.

The Champ de Mars is also made use of as a race course. The races take place annually, during the first week in July, and not unfrequently afford good sport. Some excellent horses, partly of English breed, have been imported at different times, from the Cape of Good Hope; many good Arabs have also been brought down to the Isle of France by visitors from India, and some few well-known English racers have appeared upon the arena of the Champ de Mars, to the utter discomfiture of all eastern opponents.

The public buildings in Port Louis require a brief notice, amongst which the Government house may claim precedence. It has not much architectural beauty: the building, which forms three sides of a square, is large and lofty, with a virandah throughout each of its three stories. The ground floor is of coral, and was built under the direction of the celebrated French governor Monsieur de la Bourdonnaye, the constructor of most of the public buildings in the colony. The superstructure was added in later times, and was in an unfinished state when the island was captured. The Government-house contains some large and rather handsome rooms, which are used almost exclusively as reception rooms on public occasions.

The Catholic church is a large and solid edifice. There is a competent establishment of Roman Catholic priests, at the head of whom is a vicar apostolic, called by courtesy a bishop. There is also a stone building, formerly a gunpowder magazine, which is fitted up as a Protestant church, the duties of which are performed by a civil and military chaplain, on the establishment of the colony. The courts of justice have little claim to notice as public buildings: the French code, which according to the terms of the capitulation continues to be the law of the island, is of course administered in that language; but though it will be a difficult, and, to the majority, an unpalatable measure, it is probable that, before the lapse of many years, English law will be introduced into the Mauritius. There is in Port Louis an institution very creditable to the colony, viz., the Royal College, which was originally established under the French Government; the number of pupils is from 150 to 200; most of the professors are Europeans, and some of them are eminent scholars. The original building, of which the foundation was of stone and the superstructure of wood, was three stories high; its length was 134 feet by nearly 50 in breadth. It became necessary to take it down in consequence of the destructive effects of a dreadful hurricane, which occurred in the year 1824, whereby this apparently solid structure was partially blown from its stone foundation, and its walls were fairly blown in, nearly the whole length of the building, resembling the wreck of a ship with her sides stove in: the college has since been rebuilt on a plan better adapted to a country subject to frequent returns of these dreadful visitations. Government has also, of late years, established a free school for the children of the colored population; there are likewise some private schools appropriated to their education, which are generally well attended.

A new Theatre, an indispensable requisite in a French community, has been erected within the last few years: the present is a stone building: the original theatre was of wood: this building was also moved from its foundation, and it became necessary to take it down in consequence of the damage it received during a hurricane. There is now no permanent company of actors: an attempt to establish one was made some years back, but it proved a failure.

Port Louis is well supplied with water by two aqueducts of considerable length, one on the eastern, the other on the western side of the town; the former, called the Bathurst Canal, conveying water from the "Rivière du Tombeau," the latter, constructed under the French government, from the "Grande

Rivière." All the water in the valley where Port Louis is situated is brackish. In this town there is a chalybeate spring, which was discovered in 1818, after a severe hurricane; it has obtained considerable celebrity in India, where it is thought to be efficacious in the removal of some of the diseases incidental to that climate. The temperature of Port Louis is, during the summer months, extremely oppressive, as may be readily imagined from its being fenced in on three sides by mountains, and open only to the north-west, from which quarter the wind but rarely blows; still it is far from being unhealthy for a tropical town. Few of the English functionaries, or of the merchants, reside in Port Louis during the hot months; they have residences a few miles from the town, whence they ride or drive in, to attend their offices or counting-houses, in the morning, and return in the cool of the evening. Even in the district of "Pamplemousses," on the eastern side of the town, where the country for many miles is nearly level, the thermometer is lower by three or four degrees than in Port Louis; and in the elevated district of Moka, which is more than 1100 feet above the level of the sea, and where many English families reside, the temperature is always from seven to eight degrees cooler than in the town. It is generally remarked that those who are thus enabled to pass the nights of the hot season in the country are comparatively but little affected by the extreme heat.

The barracks in Port Louis are not large, but afford comfortable accommodation to about 800 men. They are understood to have been built for warehouses for the French East India Company, to whom the island belonged for many years. When this colony reverted to the crown of France, upon the failure of that company, they were converted to their present use. The duty in Port Louis is considered severe on the soldiers; one regiment is always stationed at Grand Port, on the south-east, from which, as well as from the regiment in garrison at Port Louis, small detachments are sent to different out stations in various parts of the island. The facility with which spirits, especially Arrack of inferior quality, are to be procured, is more fatal to the soldiers than exposure to the sun, or any other effect of the climate; yet the average mortality among the troops in the island is very little greater than in Europe.

The harbour of Port Louis requires particular notice, as it may be said to constitute the principal value of the island to the British Government, so secure and commodious a haven being an important possession in those seas. The site of the town, otherwise in many respects objectionable, was decided by the position of the harbour; being in the N. W. or leeward side of the island (the prevailing winds throughout the year being from N. E. to S. E.), ships can rarely sail into it, but are obliged to anchor at the mouth or entrance, whence they are warped in. The difficulty of entrance is amply compensated by the advantages hereby afforded in case of attack, and by the facility of egress. Ships are generally enabled to sail directly out of the harbour, with a breeze which carries them at once to sea. Previously to the capture of the island, in 1810, Port Louis was considered almost impregnable; and, though it proved less formidable than was supposed, still an attack on the harbour, from the sea, would be a most arduous undertaking. The island is nearly sur-

rounded by a coral reef, distant about a quarter of a mile from the shore; it is interrupted only at the entrance of the harbour, and at the mouths of the inconsiderable bays and creeks in various parts of the coast. The entrance to the harbour, which is about half a mile in width, is protected by two powerful forts; the one called "Cooper's Island ("Ile aux Tonneliers"), connected with the mainland by a long and narrow causeway; and the other "Fort Blanc." A hostile armament would, on account of the coral reef above alluded to, be prevented from approaching them sufficiently near to get under the fire of their guns; this, added to the difficulty of beating up for the narrow mouth of the harbour, against an almost constantly prevailing head wind, would present no slight difficulties in the way of an attacking fleet.

The harbour is in length, from its mouth to the principal quay, nearly two miles; it varies in breadth from half a mile to a mile. At the extremity, on the north side, is a very fine basin, called the "Trou fanfaron," in which ships may generally ride as securely as in a dock: the force of the wind in the hurricanes has, however, in a few instances, been so overwhelming, that the ships in the harbour have broke from their moorings, and, coming violently in contact, have severely injured each other. H. M. frigate "Magicienne" was driven ashore, even in the basin, in a hurricane which occurred in 1818, although she had thirteen cables out. There is a capacious harbour at "Mahébourg" (or "Grand Port," as it is also called), on the south-eastern side of the island, but the entrance is so narrow, and the wind so constantly blows directly into it, that ships, having once entered, would scarcely ever have an opportunity of getting out of it: it is therefore not considered available for any craft larger than the coasting schooners. The Mauritius is situated in the Indian Ocean, in the 20th degree of south latitude, and 57th of east longitude.



# PORT LOUIS.

This plate represents a view of Port Louis, taken from the beach on the western side of the harbour, on the road leading to "Fort Blanc," one of the batteries at its entrance.

The basin of the "Trou Fanfaron" is not seen from this place, and the projecting point called the "Pointe de Caudan," where there is an establishment for careening and refitting ships, intercepts the view of the inner harbour, and of the principal landing place. The Government-house, and the Roman Catholic chapel, with its low tower, are discernible amongst the buildings. The eastern side of the range of mountains which enclose the town is here represented; and beyond it a high and rocky pyramidal peak, called the "Pieter Both," is seen towering above the hills which form the nearer range. In the foreground are cocoa trees.



# FALL OF THE RIVIERE DU CAP.

This is a scene of singular beauty and grandeur in the mountains of the Savannah district, in the N. W. part of the island. The cascade is formed by the "Rivière du Cap," which rises in the neighbouring mountains, and, swelled by the previous junction of several smaller streams, presents an immense body of water. The height of this cascade (which however appears never to have been ascertained by actual measurement) is confidently stated at not less than 300 feet. The present view was taken from the opposite cliff, which is of nearly equal height, and the extreme profundity of the terrific abyss beneath, is entirely concealed by the ascending spray and mist. The river, it will be observed, is divided, previously to its reaching the brink of the precipice, by a mass of rock, whereby two distinct cascades are formed ; these fall clear of the rock from top to bottom, and the thundering roar produced by the impetuous rush of such vast bodies of water from a height so stupendous, is scarcely to be imagined. This cascade may be classed with that of "Terni," and other considerable cascades on the continent, and, whilst it certainly equals that cataract in height, it may be pronounced in no degree inferior to it in the magnificence of the surrounding scenery. It may be also remarked that it has derived no aid from the hand of art, to which the "cataract of Terni" owes its chief feature, the channel conducting the stream to the precipice having been made in order to drain the marshes of the country above. All here, on the contrary, is the work of nature alone. The masses of grey and yellow rock blend harmoniously with the luxuriant vegetation. At the back of the cascades there is a natural excavation to a considerable depth, so as to admit of passing behind them to the opposite side of the ravine. The precipice on the left, is richly wooded with a variety of the indigenous forest trees. Above this forest on the left, is seen the distant peak called the "Piton de la Rivière Noire," the highest point in the island. The Mauritius abounds in scenery of a similar character, but it may be observed, in reference to the fall here represented, that it is distinguished in a remarkable degree by vastness of design and sublimity of effect, exciting those feelings of mingled awe and admiration inseparable from the contemplation of nature's grandest works ; at once the inspiration and the despair of art.

A great modern poet has given an adequate idea of the horrific beauty of such a scene in the following lines,

Lo! where it comes like an eternity,
As if to sweep down all things in its track,
Charming the eye with dread, a matchless cataract!
Horribly beautiful!- *Childe Harold*, Canto 4.



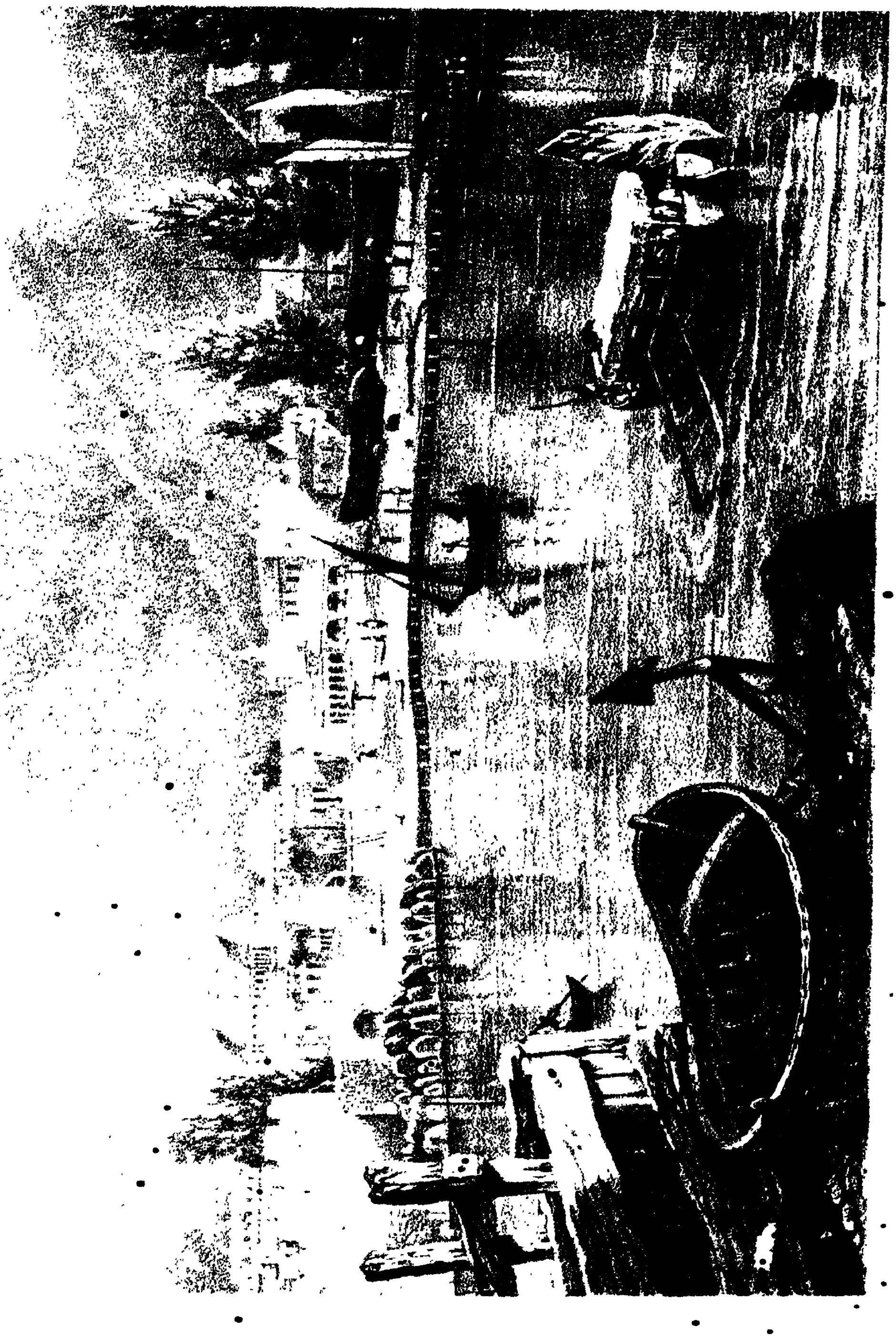
## ON THE RIVIÈRE DU CAP.

This is also a scene on the " Rivière du Cap." The descent from the cataract just described, to the plains below (a height of at least 1500 feet) is extremely rugged and in many places precipitous; there are other cascades on different parts of this river, but none which approach in importance that which has been represented in the last plate. In descending to the plain, many strikingly picturesque points of view occur, one of which has been here selected on account of the peculiarity of a subject of so much calm and tranquil beauty presenting itself in the midst of foaming cataracts and appalling precipices.



## VIEW ON THE MARAIS AUX VACOUAS.

This view is in a part of the island called "Vacoua," lying in the road to the "Rivière du Tamarind," a considerable river in the S. W. part of the island. The mountain in the centre is called the "Montagne du Rempart," and its height is about 2500 English feet. It is the centre of a range of mountains which forms the western boundary of the "Plaines de Wilhems," a well cultivated plain of considerable extent, at an elevation of about 900 feet above the level of the sea. These mountains rise abruptly from the plain, assuming an infinite variety of fantastic forms. The piece of water in the foreground is part of a lake of some extent, called the "Marais aux Vacouas," the principal part of which, being overgrown with rushes, the papyrus, dock leaves, &c.; perhaps, rather deserves its French appellation, than to be dignified with the name of "Lake;" that part of it however which is here represented is free from them, and the water clear, assuming more the appearance of a lake; it extends S. E. and N. W. about a mile. There is to the westward an outlet which is one of the sources of the "Rivière du Tamarind;" on the left, in the foreground, is a copse of bamboos, with which the long and slender stems of the cocoa trees form an agreeable contrast.



# PORT LOUIS

*(From the eastern side of the Harbour.)*

In this view, which is taken from the eastern side of the harbour, near the basin called the "Tron Fanfaron," are seen the principal landing place and a part of the quay. On the left are the ruinous remains of some of the buildings which were destroyed in the conflagration which occurred in the year 1815. Above the low buildings, which are chiefly magazines and store-houses, and which constitute the street leading down to the quay, appear the two upper stories of the Government House, to the right of which is the Custom House, a building of one story, with a virandah. The water was formerly of sufficient depth to admit of large vessels coming close up to the quay, but the larger class of vessels have now generally to quit the interior harbour, and anchor about half-way towards its mouth to complete their lading, the harbour having become partially choked up with mud; to remove this, a ponderous machine (part of which, resembling an old pier, forms the foreground in the present view) was constructed by the French engineers. It appears, however, to have but very imperfectly answered its purpose, having been found too unwieldy to be effectually made use of; and an apparatus for cleansing the harbour has been recently sent out from England. In various parts of the port are placed anchors, some of which serve as secure moorings to vessels of the largest size. The situations of these anchors are marked by large floating buoys, Upon the arrival of a ship in the harbour, expert negro divers (who are kept for this express purpose by the boat establishment) are employed to secure the vessel to her moorings. To effect this they dive to a depth of several fathoms, and remain under water so long as to alarm for their safety those who have not before witnessed this process.

In the background is the *Pouce*, the centre of the range of mountains which enclose the town. Its height is 2887 English feet. The ascent to the base of the perpendicular peak from which it derives its name is not difficult; and frequent parties are formed for the purpose of enjoying the view from the Pouce, and dining afterwards in the woods. A commissariat of negroes with provisions having been previously dispatched, the party generally commence their march an hour or two before sunrise, the gentlemen proceeding on foot, and the ladies being conveyed great part of the way in palanquins. Those who persevere in the fearful attempt to ascend the rocky precipice of which the thumb consists, may do so by a narrow spiral path which has been hewn in the rock; a false step here would infallibly prove fatal, there being not so much as a twig to protect the traveller from falling headlong down the precipice: in fact it may be said to resemble what can be conceived of climbing a church steeple on the outside without the protection of a railing—nevertheless many ladies have accomplished this perilous undertaking. The exertion alone, in a tropical climate, is very exhausting, which, added to the danger, frequently causes the traveller to pause in his ascent. He is however irresistibly led on by anticipations of the enchanting scene which awaits him on the safe termination of his labors; and indeed he is abundantly repaid on reaching the summit of the rock, whence, through the medium of the purest atmosphere, he commands a view of nearly the whole island: a more magnificent coup d' œil cannot possibly be conceived.



# TOMBS OF PAUL AND VIRGINIE.

It has been already observed that the scene of the Mauritius is invested with an additional interest from St. Pierre's romantic story of Paul and Virginie, in which there is much beautiful and accurate description.

Although the story is thought to be in a great measure fictitious, an eager desire to visit these tombs is evinced by all travellers on their arrival at the Mauritius. In the district of the "Pamplemousses" (or the Shaddoc Grove), seven miles east of Port Louis, the visitor is conducted to the garden of a French planter, about 500 yards distant from the church of the Shaddoc Grove. This garden is well laid out, and kept in good order: a very rare circumstance in the Mauritius, where ornamental gardening, which might be pursued under every advantage of soil and climate, is for the most part neglected. Here, amidst a copse of bamboos, at the extremity of a broad walk bounded on each side by a tank of clear water, are seen two pedestals, each surmounted by an urn. They are without inscription; but this deficiency has been amply supplied by many of the visitors to the tombs, who have recorded upon every accessible part of them the varied feelings which the moment has inspired: some, as if influenced by the sacredness of a spot devoted to the memory of faithful love, have poured forth their sentiments in poetic effusions: others have registered their visit in prose, and not a few in simple initials have borne testimony to John Bull's invariable and inveterate habit of leaving a memorial of himself wherever he goes. In the distance are seen the two principal mountains in the immediate vicinity of the town, "the Pouce," and "the Pieter Both."



# IN THE DISTRICT OF PAMPLEMOUSSES.

Among the various singularly formed mountains which characterise the scenery of the Mauritius, there are none more remarkable than the "Pieter Both," the principal object in the present view.

Its name is said to be derived from one of the early Dutch settlers, who, with an agility for which his countrymen are not proverbially celebrated, is supposed to have completed the perilous and difficult task of climbing to the highest peak; but, though he succeeded in obtaining the summit of his ambition, he did not survive to boast of the feat, for, in descending, he lost his hold and fell headlong down the precipice.

To the left is the mountain called "Les deux Mammelles," and the "Rivière des Calebasses" forms part of the landscape.

In the foreground is the aloe, of which there are several varieties in the colony; in these climates they grow so rapidly, and with such luxuriance, as quickly to form an impenetrable fence, for which purpose they are in very general use throughout the island. They blossom regularly every year, throwing up a strong stalk very much resembling, on its first appearance, a head of asparagus. It afterwards puts forth lateral branches, upon which grow clusters of white flowers. In general it attains a height of from fifteen to twenty feet, and, when the stalk has arrived at maturity, the negroes cut it down, and use it in constructing the frame-work of the roofs of their huts.



# BAIE DU CAP.

The bay so called, from the high and steep headland at its entrance, is in the Savannah district, and is nearly a mile in length. The present view was taken from the inner extremity of the bay, into which at this point the Rivière du Cap discharges itself. On the right are large masses of rock and a basaltic cliff, believed to be the only specimen of the kind in the island. These objects, contrasted with the surrounding rich and varied foliage, being reflected in the transparent sheet of water below, whose glassy surface in this sequestered spot is seldom disturbed by a ripple, present to the traveller a scene of great beauty. The road lies over the summit of the basaltic cliff on the opposite side of the bay, approaching in some places much too near the brink of the precipice for the comfort of a nervous traveller. There is not depth of water sufficient for any larger vessels than the coasting schooners, which bring from the port rice and other provisions for the neighbouring planters, and return laden, for the most part, with timber, of which the Savannah district affords a large supply.



# BAIE DU TOMBEAU.

*(Looking West.)*

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The bay so called is about eight miles to the eastward of Port Louis, in the district of Pamplemousses. It is said to have derived its name from the circumstance of a number of bodies—part of the crew of a ship supposed to have foundered off this part of the island, in a hurricane—having drifted ashore at this place. The view is taken from the eastern side of the bay, which is narrow, but extends above a mile inland, and the "Rivière des Calebasses" discharges itself into it. The banks, on each side, are richly clothed with wood—on the opposite bank are the buildings composing the establishment of one of the French planters of the district. These consist, generally, of a principal dwelling house, and a number of small detached buildings, which in India are called bungalows, but are here denominated pavilions; they commonly contain two or three small rooms, which are used as apartments for visitors,—a mode of lodging them which possesses many recommendations, although it must be acknowledged that to the guests they are somewhat counterbalanced by the fact of their having frequently to provide themselves, on returning to rest, with cloaks, lanterns, and umbrellas, in order to make their way through a storm of thunder, lightning, rain, and wind, to their bed-rooms, situated, perhaps, at the very farthest extremity of the establishment. The principal dwelling house usually contains a "Salle à manger" and a "Salle de Compagnie," or drawing room, on the ground floor, over which are bed-rooms occupied exclusively by the planter and his family: the stair-case, as in the present instance, is frequently on the outside; the kitchen, store room, &c., are all in detached buildings.—There is, from this point, an extensive view of the mountains in the immediate neighbourhood of the town, which present a variety of grotesque and singular forms; this range, of which the principal is the "Pieter Both," branches off in a N.E. direction from the "Pouce:" the former, whose remarkable peak has been already noticed, is a prominent feature in most of the views; on this side of the town, its resemblance to a pinnacle almost leads one, in some points of view, to imagine it a work of art. The bluff rocky mass to the left is the "Morne aux Prêtres," the opening between which and the adjoining peak is called "La Fenêtre."—The remainder of the range, which gradually diminishes in height from this point, is called the "Montagne longue," on the nearest point of which is erected a signal post, which communicates with a similar station upon the western extremity of the Port Louis range of hills, called the "Morne de la Découverte," whence the approach of ships is telegraphed to the town. The light shrub in the right hand corner of the foreground is the Guava, which grows spontaneously in most parts of the island.



## THE PROTESTANT CHURCH, PORT LOUIS.

The building appropriated to divine service, of which a view is here given, was originally a powder magazine, built under the French government; it has been fitted up with a pulpit, reading desk, and pews for the purpose, though in its external appearance, when this view was taken, there was nothing to indicate that it was a place of worship. The building is of great strength: its walls are of immense thickness, on which account it is always perfectly cool. It has no pretensions to architectural beauty, but it was very unobtrusive until the recent addition of a tower and steeple, which must be so totally out of keeping with the other part of the structure, that, although it may fail to excite admiration, it cannot escape notice. It is however said that, if the appearance of the church itself has gained nothing by this addition, it has much improved the view of the town from the harbour, which no doubt is the case.—On the establishment of the colony there are two Protestant clergymen, a civil and a garrison chaplain. The back-ground of this view is, of necessity, nearly a repetition of that which occurs in one of the views of the town, the "Pouce" in the centre, and the adjoining range stretching to the N.W.; part of the latter is enveloped in low clouds, which (upon the clearing away of the storms that during the hot season are of almost daily occurrence) are generally left resting upon the mountains, until dispelled by the returning north-easterly breeze. In the fore-ground is a palanquin and bearers, attended by an Indian Peon or messenger; these conveyances are now almost entirely superseded by the very general use of European carriages, but, from the state of the roads when the island was first captured, the palanquin was the common means of transport for all, both in town and country. It is undoubtedly a luxurious mode of conveyance; preserving the reclining posture, seldom otherwise than agreeable in such a climate, the traveller, extended on a soft cushion, is carried along at a tolerably rapid pace, and, whilst he is effectually protected from the ardent rays of the sun, he is refreshed by the breeze which gently plays upon him through the medium of venetian blinds. It is however no small drawback to this luxury to have to witness the severe but unrequited labor of the bearers.



## NEAR PAMPLEMOUSSES.

It has been already remarked, that the island abounds in mountain torrents: a view of one of the principal of them, the "Rivière des Calebasses," in the district of Pamplemousses, has been here selected. This scene lies a little to the right of a bye-road from Pamplemousses to the district of Flacq. The extent to which these rivers are swollen, during the periodical rains, renders it impossible for wooden bridges to resist the torrent: where the experiment has been tried the bridge has invariably been swept away; and stone or suspension bridges are, in general, beyond the reach of colonial finances: temporary causeways are therefore constructed, by which means the rivers are passed without inconvenience, until the causeways have been washed away by the overwhelming force of the water, which is the fate of most of them at some period of the rainy season; the rivers cannot then be crossed without great difficulty, and indeed danger, and lives are not unfrequently lost in the attempt. These rivers abound in delicious fish; amongst others the "Gouramie," a large broad flat fish, the flesh of which is very firm and of delicate flavor: fish of this description, weighing several pounds, are frequently caught in these rivers. Angling is a favorite employment amongst the free colored population, who pursue it both as an amusement and as a source of profit: many of them gain by it an ample livelihood. During the season of the heavy rains a kind of fish called "Cabeaux" are also taken in considerable numbers; their skin is black, but the flesh is delicately white; large grey mullet, which are far superior to the sea mullet, are also caught in these rivers; eels likewise are found in great abundance: the two latter are the only European fish to be met with in the island. The mountains in the back-ground are the "Montagnes des Calebasses."



# ON THE RIVIÈRE DES CRÉOLES.

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Within rather less than a mile of "Grand Port," or "Mahebourg," a military station on the S. E. part of the island, and next in importance to Port Louis, is the "Rivière des Créoles," on which there is much romantic and highly picturesque scenery. The point of view here chosen is about a quarter of a mile from the mouth of the river, which, at this place, almost amounts to a lake, though the depth of water is not very considerable. The river rises in the adjacent mountains, its course lying to the right of the mountain in the centre, and within a few yards of the turn it discharges itself into the bay of "Grand Port." The principal mountain, which with an adjoining range of hills to the right forms the N. E. side of the bay, is called the "Montagne des Créoles;" its peculiar formation has also obtained for it the name of "Le Lion Couchant;" its height is about 1250 feet. The distant peaks are part of the Bamboo mountains; one of them, it will be remarked, bears a strong resemblance to a man's hand. The highest point of this range is about 2200 feet above the level of the sea. The bay of "Grand Port," though extensive and capable of affording perfect security from the weather, is not found to be available for any vessels larger than the coasting schooners, for reasons that have been before stated, viz. the entrance being extremely narrow, and the trade wind prevailing for the greater part of the year, which would render it a work of much labor and expense to get a large vessel clear of the harbour. On each side of its entrance is a small rocky island; the "Île de Passe" and the "Île Marianne." The former is somewhat noted from the rare occurrence of a failure on the part of a British naval force, consisting of several frigates, which, having taken possession of the "Île de Passe," proceeded to enter the harbour with an intention of cutting out some French vessels of war which were at anchor there. The result, from a want of knowledge of the numerous shoals in which the bay abounds, was most disastrous to the British ships, the whole of which were wrecked.

# "GRANDE RIVIÈRE."

*(Looking South-East.)*

The village of Grande Rivière is about a mile from Port Louis, and its environs abound with picturesque scenery. The point of view which has been selected is on the cliff, on the western side of the mouth of the river, which here presents an imposing breadth of water, but its depth is not very considerable. The bridge, which is of wood, has been, within these few years, rebuilt by government. The buildings below, on the right, comprise the Civil Hospital, a long building with a flat roof, and numerous bungalows, in which the Indian convicts employed upon the roads are lodged. The Grande Rivière is formed by the junction of four rapid mountain torrents, three of which rise in the hills of Moka, the Rivières, Moka, Profonde, and Mesnil, and that of the Plaines de Wilhems, which rises in the district of that name. These torrents pursue their winding course, for the most part, through ravines of great depth. Attempts have occasionally been made to follow the course of these streams along their rocky beds. Some nerve is required, in the outset, to descend the rugged precipitous paths made by the negroes in the almost perpendicular cliffs, which they run down with the agility of mountain-goats; having reached the bottom of the ravine, fresh obstacles present themselves in the nature of the ground, which is invariably covered with rocks and large stones, overgrown with brambles and bushes, which in some places are impassable; and the traveller is compelled to cross and re-cross the river repeatedly as he proceeds. These formidable obstacles, in addition to the heat of the climate, render it, in general, too fatiguing an undertaking for a European to persevere in.—The hills on the left are the western extremity of the Moka range, terminating in the "Montagne Orry." The mountain on the right is the "Corps de Garde," the outline of which bears a remarkable resemblance to the rock of Gibraltar.



# CASCADE ON THE "RIVIÈRE DE MOKA."

*(From the Plaines Wilhems District.)*

It will be readily imagined that in a country like the Mauritius, abounding in woods, rocks, and mountain torrents, there are many fine cascades. On the "Rivière de Moka" there are several very picturesque falls, though that of which a view is here given is the only one, on this river, of considerable height. The Moka river rises in the heights of the district so called, joining its waters, in common with many other tributary torrents, to those of the "Grande Rivière," about a mile from its mouth: a good view of the fall is obtained from within a few paces of the high road from Port Louis; but the best point of view, which includes in the back ground the peculiar craggy peaks at the western extremity of the Moka hills, together with a distant view of part of the Port Louis range, can only be obtained from the opposite side of the ravine, in the district of Plaines Wilhems, whence the present view was taken. This cascade will be best known to those who are acquainted with the island by the name of "Cascade Piston." Its height is about eighty feet, and in the rainy season it presents a considerable body of water. An attempt to write any thing either new or interesting on the subject of cascades, a theme which poets and tourists have alike exhausted, would probably prove a fruitless effort: it may, however, be observed, that the upper part of this fall is beautifully broken by ledges and shelving projections, amongst which the river pursues its rugged and foaming course, until, arriving at the perpendicular part of the cliff, the whole collected volume of water darts uninterruptedly into the gulf below, where, gliding along in distant and more gentle murmurs, it proceeds to unite itself with the larger stream. The sides of the ravine, which are for the most part perpendicular, are finely diversified with wood and rock. In these ravines the tropic bird, or "paille en queue," so called from the single long feather of which its tail consists, builds her nest; numbers of these birds, with their snowy plumage glittering in the sun, are seen, toward the close of day, returning to their nests, after a busy cruise over the blue and sparkling ocean.



## BAIE DU TOMBEAU."

*(Looking North.)*

The point of view here selected is the inland extremity of the bay, where the "Rivière des Calebasses" unites itself with the arm of the sea. The situation, &c., of this bay, having been already stated in the notice which accompanied a preceding view of "Baie du Tombeau," which, it may be observed, was taken from the summit of the bank on the right looking toward the land, there remains little in the way of description to be said in reference to the present view. The bay, at this point, presents a wide expanse of water, agreeably varied by the richly wooded banks. In the foreground is a marine shrub, called by the French the "Manglier," which is worthy of remark, on account of its very peculiar roots, from which it appears somewhat to partake of the character of the Banyan tree: like the latter, fresh shrubs shoot up, *ad infinitum*, from the roots, and thus a single plant of the manglier will in a short time, of itself, produce an entire grove. It might afford no despicable means of defence upon the coast, for, from the intermingling of the roots, a grove of these trees would present a barrier perfectly impenetrable. This shrub grows only in the immediate neighbourhood of the sea.



# POWDER MILLS, PAMPLEMOUSSES.

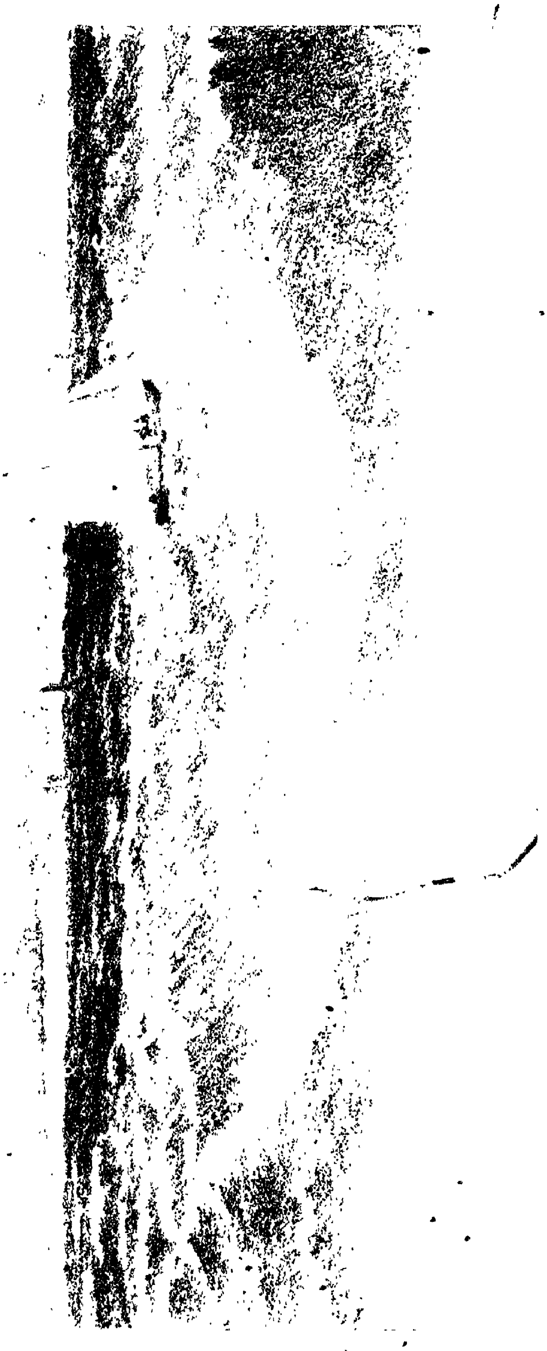
In the district of Pamplemousses, about seven miles from Port Louis, are the buildings which, under the French government, composed the establishment of the Powder Mills; the tower was intended for an observatory, the rest of the buildings are now used as a military quarter; they consist of barracks for a small detachment, with appropriate officers' quarters: there is also a comfortable residence, usually occupied by an officer of the staff. In 1825, the officer to whose charge was confided some state prisoners from Kandi, in Ceylon, had this residence assigned to him. The principal of these prisoners was Prince Eyhelapola, prime minister to the dethroned King of Kandi. His removal from his own country, after its conquest by the English, was adopted as a measure of policy, lest his influence over his countrymen should be exercised in a manner prejudicial to British interests. He resided in a small cottage at Pamplemousses to the time of his decease, which took place about three years after his arrival in the colony. The scenery in the district of Pamplemousses is less striking than that of many other parts of the island; it is well cultivated and abundantly wooded, but not mountainous, having something the character of an English landscape. The soil of this district is peculiarly favorable to the growth of the sugar-cane. There are also several clove plantations, which are very productive, when the hopes of the planter are not defeated by one of those visitations which are of but too frequent occurrence in the Mauritius— a hurricane, when every thing in the nature of produce, not sheltered from its violence, is swept away. It is especially fatal to the clove tree; the ground being thoroughly saturated with the torrents of rain which fall on these occasions, the roots lose their hold in the soil, and the shrub, being fairly blown out of the ground, is entirely destroyed.—Amongst the reeds, &c., in the left corner of the foreground, may be observed the papyrus, which abounds in the marshy parts of the island.





## AQUEDUCT AT "LA GRANDE RIVIÈRE."

Port Louis is supplied with water by two aqueducts of considerable length: one on the eastern, the other on the western side of the town; the former proceeding from the "Rivière du Tombeau," the latter from the "Grande Rivière." All the water flowing through the valley in which Port Louis is situated is brackish; whence it has become a matter of necessity to construct canals to conduct water from the more distant streams. The canal of "Grande Rivière," and the aqueduct, of which a view is here given, were undertaken and completed by an individual under the French government, and a plentiful supply of good water was thereby introduced into the western parts of the town; the absence, however, of such a supply in the eastern and more populous part was felt to be a serious evil, especially in a tropical climate; moreover the want of water in this part of the town, on occasion of the great fire that took place in 1816 (in which property to no less an amount than £1,200,000, according to the official returns, was consumed), was the cause of much more extensive destruction than probably would otherwise have occurred. After this calamity it was resolved by the British government to construct a new canal from the Rivière du Tombeau, in order to afford to the eastern parts of Port Louis an adequate supply of water. The "Bathurst Canal" was therefore determined upon, and constructed at an expense of upwards of £30,000, which was defrayed by the community of Port Louis, upon whom an additional tax was levied for this purpose. The aqueduct at the Grande Rivière, which is the principal object in the present view, is built across an intervening ravine of no very great depth, along the bottom of which flows a narrow mountain stream. In the background is part of the range of hills forming the western boundary of the plain in which Port Louis stands, terminating in the "Morne de la Découverte."



# PORT LOUIS,

*(From the Offing.)*

This view is intended to give a general idea of the appearance of the island on approaching the harbour. The sketch was taken about four miles from the outer anchorage (which is marked by some vessels riding at anchor), whence the distance to the inner harbour is about two miles.

The amphitheatre of hills, in the midst of which Port Louis is situated, is here, at one view, displayed; the principal mountains are the "Pouce," in the immediate rear of the town, with a long range of rocky hills, extending on either side nearly to the sea: beyond the first range, on the left, the "Pieter Both" rears its lofty pinnacle, whilst in the distance, to the right, appear the Moka hills. The "Morne de la Découverte" terminates the nearest range on the right. From the singular form of the mountains, the appearance of the island, from the sea, is very remarkable. It sometimes happens that, at day-break, the whole of the lower part of the island is enveloped in a white wreath of mist, whilst the craggy summits of the mountains are seen above, standing out in sharp relief against the clear and brilliant sky: on approaching the island, under these circumstances, the high peaks are sometimes perceptible at sea at an almost incredible distance; but, as the day advances, and the exhalations are diffused by the power of the sun, the pleasing vision disappears.



# THE BARRACKS AT MAHÉBOURG.

The cantonment of "Mahébourg," or "Grand Port" (as it is also called), is about thirty miles from Port Louis, and is situated on the south-east side of the island. As a military station it is next in importance to Port Louis, but it does not deserve the name of a town. There are some few indifferent shops, and a number of small detached houses, which are for the most part occupied by the officers of the regiment stationed there. The principal building is the Barracks, which form three sides of a square; they were built during the French occupation of the island, and are capable of receiving about 400 men. There is no public place of worship at Mahébourg: divine service is performed for the soldiers in a room in the Barracks appropriated to this purpose.

The present view was taken from the inner extremity of the harbour, near the point of junction between the "Rivière de la Chaud" and the arm of the sea forming the bay. The advantages resulting from the recent completion of an excellent road between Port Louis and Mahébourg, and the difficulties which attended this undertaking, have been already alluded to in the memoir at the commencement of this work. Some observations regarding the harbour of "Grand Port" have also been made therein, which will render it unnecessary here to advert to it. On the opposite side of the bay, at the foot of the "Montagne des Créoles," are the remains of some of the houses which formerly composed the establishment of the early Dutch settlers: these ruins are generally denominated "Old Grand Port." One of the regiments which compose the military force of the colony is always stationed at Mahébourg.



## VIEW NEAR "LES SALINES"

The Salt Works (Les Salines) are upon the beach, to the west of the town. A considerable quantity of salt is made at this establishment, which is the property of a French resident, and is understood to be sufficiently profitable. The building to the left, called "Belle Vue," was for some years the abode of the late Deputy Commissary-General Young, by whom it was much improved and embellished, and rendered a most comfortable residence. This, and some other houses in its immediate neighbourhood, have usually been occupied by officers of the government. The situation commands a fine and extensive sea view, and affords the combined advantages of pure country air with those arising from the immediate vicinity of the town: it is consequently very desirable to those whose official duties require their daily attendance in Port Louis. In the background is the bluff rocky point called "Morne de la Découverte," on the summit of which is a signal station communicating with the town. The "Pieter Both," and part of the adjoining range of hills, appear in the distance.

# LE REDUIT

About seven miles south-west of Port Louis, in the district of Moka, is the "Reduit," the country house and ordinary residence of the Governor. The house, a stone building of two stories, was erected during the early possession of the colony by the French, but it has received subsequent additions and improvements; it is spacious and altogether well adapted to its purpose. The whole centre part of the building consists of a large and handsome hall, one end of which is used as a billiard room, and the other as a "Salle à Manger;" it has both in front and at the back a virandah or colonnade the length of the hall, and at one end of it there is a moderate-sized drawing room; but in these climates the virandah is as much occupied as any of the apartments. The upper floor consists entirely of sleeping rooms for the family, and for visitors there are numerous small detached buildings, here called Pavillions.

The situation of the house is highly picturesque; it fronts S.E. and N.W. and is built on a tongue of land terminating in a point, between two deep and extensive ravines, at an elevation of more than 800 feet above the level of the sea. The approach is through a long avenue, partly of Madagascar Fir Trees (Filhaos), and partly of Mangoes. The view from the back of the house is extremely beautiful; looking over the garden and shrubberies, which are very extensive, and judiciously laid out, the eye passes on to the rich and varied landscape beyond, where, amongst other objects, the numerous turns in the thickly wooded ravines are marked by various intersecting lines, and portions of rugged perpendicular cliff, which occur, in long succession, and terminate in a fine distant view of the ocean. The numerous shady walks, impervious to the rays of the sun, in the course of which an occasional peep of the interesting scenery is admitted, are a great resource; the temperature is comparatively cool, the neighbouring country, practicable either for riding or driving and, taken altogether, the Reduit cannot but be considered a most delightful residence.



# BAIE DU CAP,

*(From the Eastern Cliffs.)*

The present view was taken from the summit of the headland on the eastern side of the entrance to the "Baie du Cap." It lies in the direct road round the island. After quitting the district of the Rivière Noire, and entering that of "La Savanne, the country for several miles is tame and monotonous: the road lies along the coast, with the sea on one side, and, on the other, an extensive and dreary plain, wholly uncultivated and covered with a kind of grass too coarse and rank to serve for pasture, bounded by a continued chain of distant mountains. In this part of the "Savanne" district there is so little traffic that the traveller often proceeds for miles, without an indication of the island being inhabited, with a scorching meridian sun over his head, powerfully reflected by the sandy soil beneath: arriving however, after an abrupt ascent upon the summit of a cliff from 300 to 400 feet above the level of the sea, he is at length amply repaid for his previous uninteresting ride, by a beautiful and diversified prospect which opens suddenly upon him: the narrow bay beneath, with its clear blue waters, the picturesque bank of blended wood and rock on the opposite side, with a fine view of the distant country, bounded by a lengthened chain of lofty hills, form together a striking coup d'œil. The cone-shaped mountain on the left is the "Piton de la Rivière Noire," the highest point in the island, the other mountains are known generally as the "Montagnes de la Savanne."



# LES TROIS MANGUIERS.

Sixteen miles in a westerly direction from Port Louis, is the district of the "Rivière Noire," so called from the river of that name. Like the rest of the rivers in this mountainous country it becomes, during the rainy months, a rapid torrent of considerable breadth; in the dry season however, when it is reduced to little more than a shallow stream, it is practicable to proceed for some miles along its rugged bed, but it is by no means a light undertaking. After a fatiguing walk of about four miles from the mouth of the river, in the course of which the traveller has several times to cross it, and to contend with a variety of impediments to his progress, he arrives at the singular spot here represented; the comparatively civilized appearance of which presents a remarkable contrast with the wildness which characterises the rest of the scenery along the river. This place, "Les trois Manguiers" (or Mango trees), is so called from three fine trees of that description, which appear on the left: this spot is a principal rendezvous of the "Chasseurs au Cerf." In this part of the island the race of deer, with which the Mauritius is said to have abounded in the time of the early settlers, is not yet extinct, and occasional "parties de chasse" are formed by the planters of the district, who generally assemble at this place, provided with guns, and a few couples of hounds: they proceed to the adjoining woods, where a station, at different openings in the forest, is assigned to each sportsman, whilst others proceed with the hounds to beat the covers, all of course on foot, the nature of the ground precluding the use of horses. The venison is but of indifferent quality, lean, and possessing but little flavor. In the woods near the black river, the species of large bat, called flying foxes, are frequently seen, and all the woods in the island abound with monkeys. The rocky bluff point on the right is called the "Morne Sec;" the distant hill in the centre, on which a small white cloud continually rests, is the "Montagne à la Neige."



# AT PAMPLEMOUSSES

The district of Pamplemousses abounds in picturesque scenery, though it is less wild, and upon a less grand scale, than that of other parts of the island. The sketch which forms the subject of the present plate, was taken from near the entrance to the Botanical Garden. The principal features of the view are the "Pieter Both" in the centre, on the right of which is the "Morne aux Prêtres," and on the left the "Montagne des deux Mammelles." The residence of one of the French planters of the district appears in the middle distance, and in the fore ground are plants of the Banana.





## "ON THE RIVIÈRE DU TAMARIN."

The subject of this view is one of the most considerable, and most rapid of the mountain torrents in the Mauritius, "the Rivière du Tamarin," in the district of "Rivière Noire." The point of view is that part of the river at which it is usually forded, which, as it lies in the direct road round the island, and as it has not been found practicable to build a bridge of sufficient strength to resist the impetuosity of the torrent, is unavoidable: this, during the rainy season, is a service of some difficulty, if not danger. The bed of the river is composed of large stones, and masses of rock, affording any thing but firm footing for a horse; and the giddiness, occasioned by the rapidity of the stream, makes it, to an ordinary traveller, a matter of some difficulty to maintain his seat, and renders him utterly incapable of assisting his horse to keep his legs, a task which is therefore necessarily confided to a negro, who wades through at the horse's head. Many fruitless attempts have been made to construct a permanent causeway across this ford, and a wooden bridge was erected by the French government, but it is said to have been swept away into the sea the first year of its completion. On the opposite side of the river, concealed by the trees, is the residence of the civil commissary, or mayor of the district. The remarkable mountain of the three peaks ("Les trois Mammelles)" appears in the centre, and to the left the "Montagne du Rempart:" the height of the former is 2373 feet, and that of the latter 2748 feet above the level of the sea.

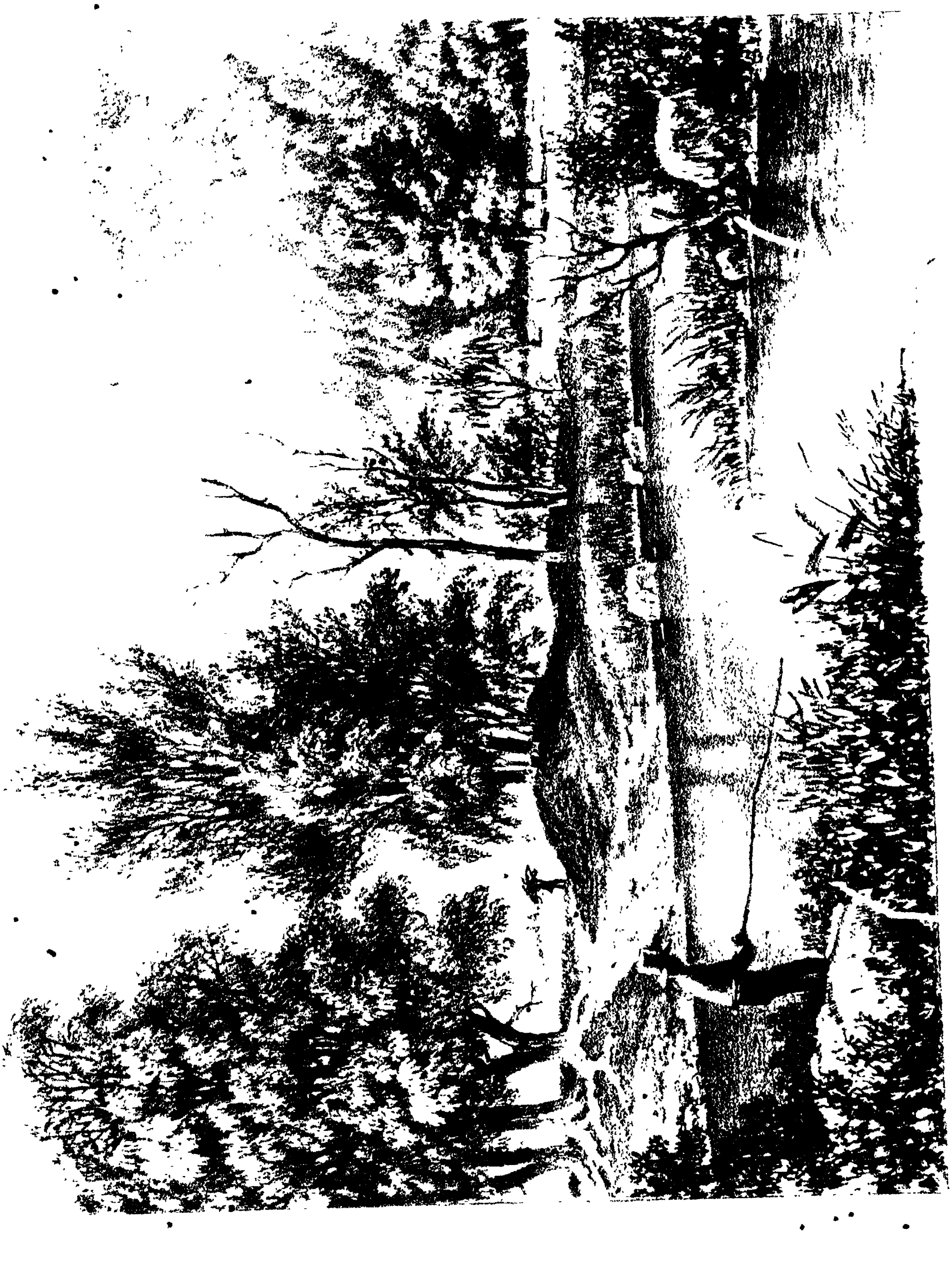


# "LA RIVIÈRE NOIRE."

The district of the "Rivière Noire," about sixteen miles south-west of Port Louis, is abundant in romantic scenery. The sketch, which forms the subject of the present plate, was taken from the beach, near the mouth of the river, at the extremity of a fine avenue of Mango and Tamarind trees, leading to the residence of Monsieur Genève, a planter of that district, whose name is identified, in the recollection of all the English who have had occasion to visit that part of the island, with kindness and hospitality. The total absence of inns, or of any kind of house of public entertainment throughout the island, occasions the residences of some of the planters, in the several districts through which the traveller has to pass in making the tour of the island, to be sometimes rather unceremoniously invaded. All, however, that is expected by them on these occasions, is a letter of introduction, announcing the intended visit, and giving a short notice, in order that there may be time to prepare for the reception of the party; and, when this reasonable stipulation is complied with, nothing can exceed the hospitality with which strangers are uniformly entertained by the planters of Mauritius. The soil, in the district of the Rivière Noire, is extremely fertile, and the sugar cane flourishes here in great luxuriance. Tamarind trees, which are in general very productive, abound here; there are also numerous date trees, of which some specimens are introduced in the view. The mountain is the "Piton de la Rivière Noire," the most elevated point in the island, being nearly thirty feet higher than the "Pieter Both," or about 2950 English feet above the level of the sea.

# "LE BOUT DU MONDE."

The Governor's country residence, "Le Réduit," is built on a tongue of land, between two very deep and extensive ravines. In laying out the grounds advantage has been taken of the natural beauties of the place. A shady walk, impervious to the rays of the sun (a luxury which all residents in tropical climates are able to appreciate), extends from the rear of the house along the brow of the ravine, to the termination of the tongue of land already noticed. The opening at the extremity of this walk has been judiciously planted out, and a magnificent coup d'œil at the extreme point, which is called the "Bout du Monde," suddenly presents itself. The cliff, which is nearly perpendicular, is some hundred feet in depth: at the bottom of the ravine is the "Rivière Profonde," which, though a considerable torrent, appears a mere rivulet, from the great depth of the ravine: the rich and varied tints of the foliage harmonize with the red soil of the cliffs, and with the grey masses of rock; the plain, to the west of Port Louis, is seen beyond the intersecting lines which mark the windings of the ravine, and the extreme distance terminates in a view of the ocean, with the signal hill of Port Louis, "Morne de la Découverte," on the right. This beautiful and romantic spot is seen with peculiar advantage when illumined by the parting rays of the setting sun, on one of those calm and serene evenings which are of such frequent occurrence between the tropics.



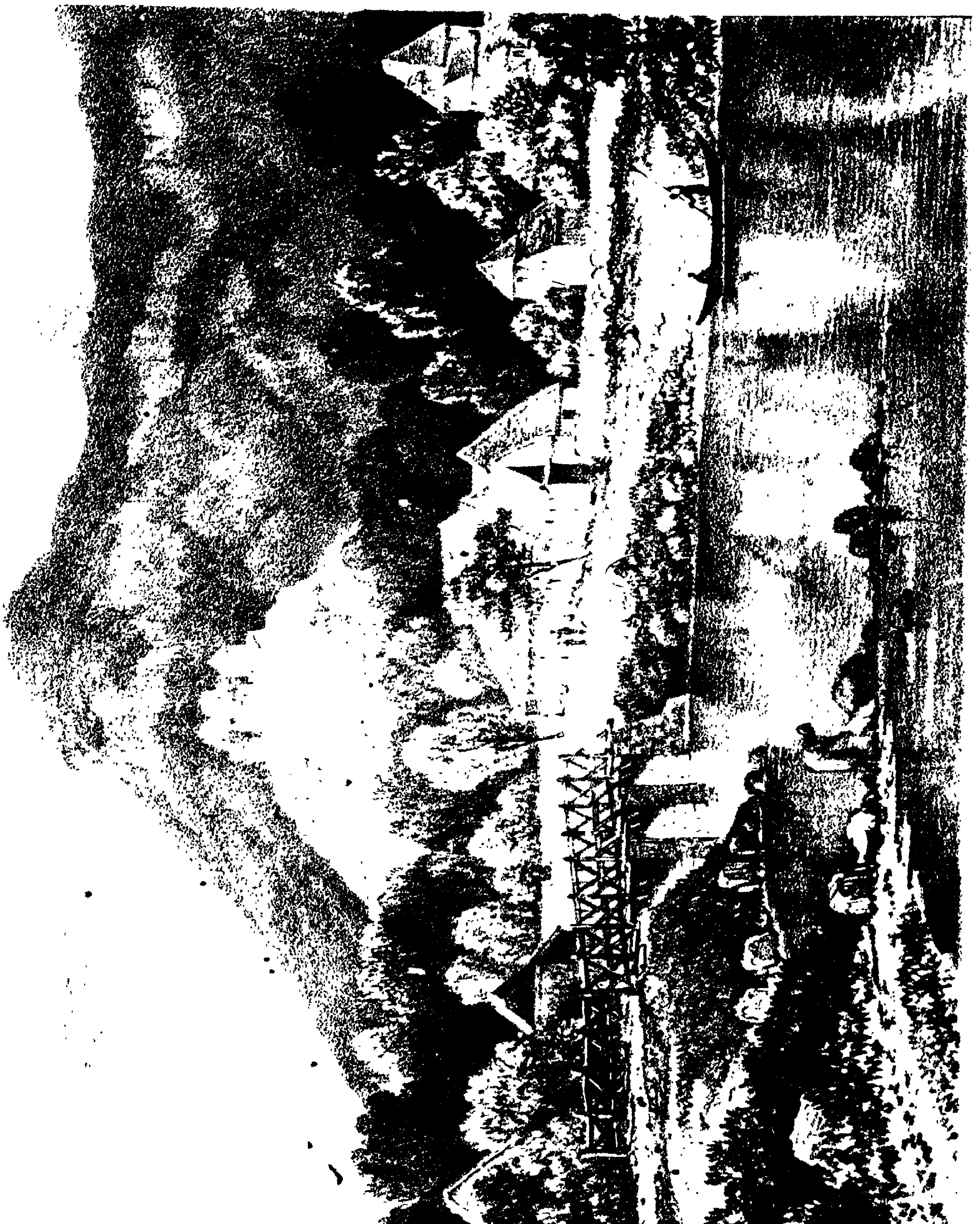
## NEAR MAHÉBOURG.

This view occurs about a mile from Mahébourg, and was taken from the summit of a precipitous cliff, which forms one side of a deep ravine, at the bottom of which the "Rivière de la Chaud" pursues its winding course, overshadowed by the hanging branches of a luxuriant copse of Mango trees, in the grounds of a French lady, whose residence on the brow of the ravine is visible above the trees. In the distance is the "Montagne des Créoles," or "Lion Couchant," and the adjoining range of hills on the north-eastern side of the bay of "Grand Port."



## NEAR THE POWDER MILLS, PAMPLEMOUSSES.

The principal feature in this view is the remarkable range of hills by which the extensive and highly cultivated plains of Pamplemousses are bounded: in the centre is the "Pieter Both," with the "Pouce" on the right, and on the left the "Montagne des deux Mammelles." The point of view selected is on the road from the Powder Mills to the "Baie du Tombeau," on one of the banks of the "Rivière des Calebasses," which pursues its winding course below.



## VILLAGE OF "LA GRANDE RIVIÈRE."

There is much fine scenery in the neighbourhood of Grande Rivière: the village is within a very short distance of the mouth of the river, of which the bed is here of considerable breadth; a substantial wooden bridge has been thrown across it, and, though sometimes in great apparent danger of being swept away by the inundations which frequently occur during the rainy season, it has rarely experienced any serious injury. On a high mound on the opposite side of the river, in the rear of the houses, is a small dismantled fort, formerly mounting two or three guns, commanding the entrance to the bay; behind this appears the signal mountain of Port Louis, "Morne de la Découverte," and, in the distance, part of the "Montagne longue."

The village of Grande Rivière is the rendezvous of all the professors of the art of "blanchissage," male and female, of Port Louis and its neighbourhood; the banks of the river, at all hours from day-break to dusk, are completely covered with negroes and negresses thus employed; and in the dry season, when the river is reduced to a very narrow stream, the entire bed of the river is thus peopled, presenting, altogether, a very animated scene. At "Grande Rivière" is the principal station of the Indian convicts employed upon the public roads; also the Civil Hospital.



## FROM THE BEACH, NEAR FORT BLANC

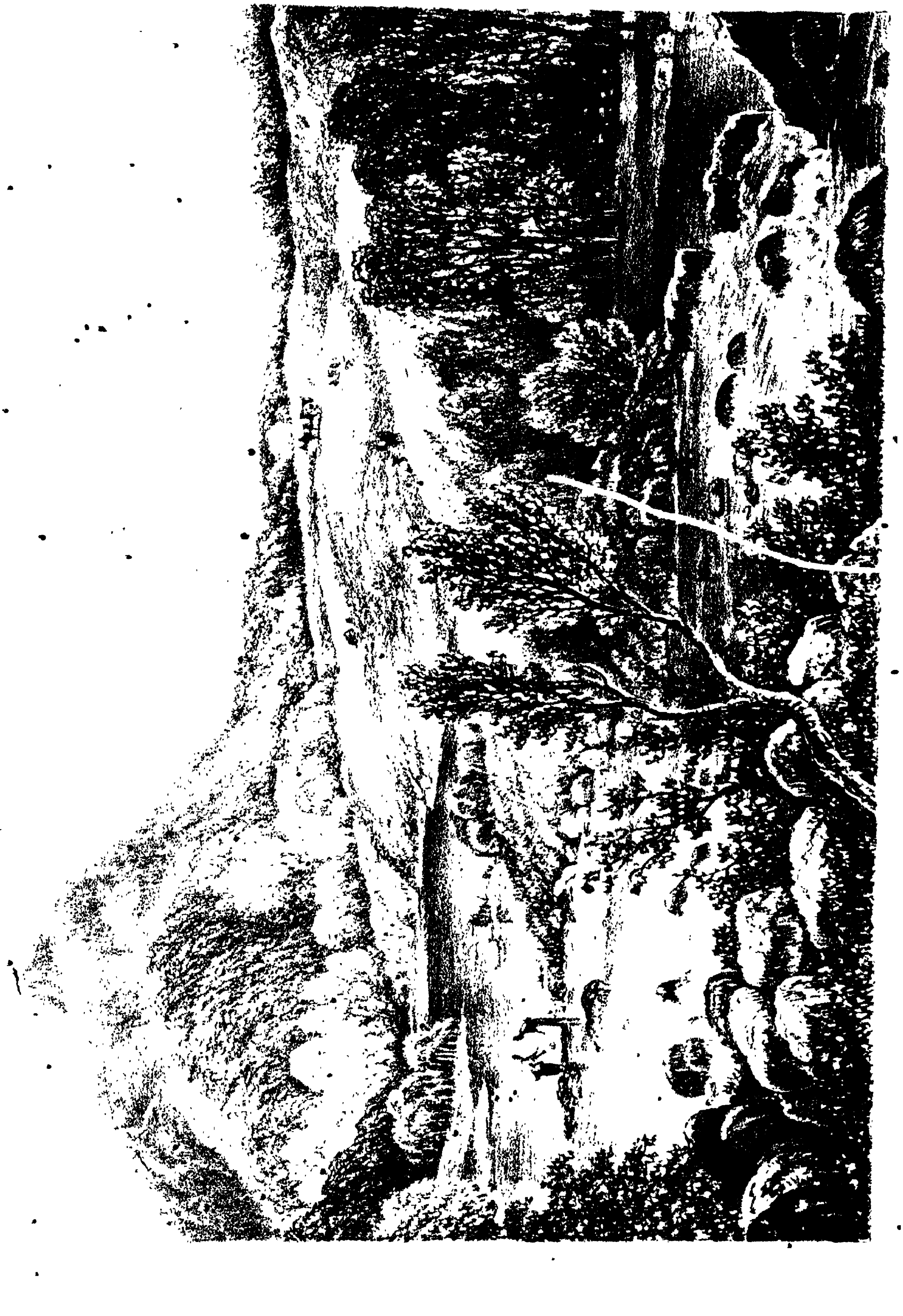
The entrance to the harbour, as was remarked in the Memoir of the island, is protected by two powerful forts, the "Ile aux Tonneliers," on the eastern, and "Fort Blanc" on the western side. The present view occurs on the road to the latter, after passing the cemetery. Two of the houses in the centre of the view, and some few others in their immediate neighbourhood, have commonly been occupied by officers of the government, for whom this situation has peculiar advantages, being within less than a mile of the town, though beyond the influence of its confined and heated atmosphere.

In the distance is the mountain of the "Corps de Garde," bearing, in its outline, a very remarkable resemblance to the rock of Gibraltar; and the peaks of the singularly-formed rocky mountain, called "Montagne des trois Mammelles," are just visible in the extreme distance.



## CASCADE DES PLAINES WILHEMS.

This cascade, which is on the "Rivière des Plaines Wilhems," is one of the principal falls in the island, its estimated height being about 180 feet; and, during the season of the periodical rains, an immense volume of water precipitates itself, with a thundering roar, over the perpendicular cliff. The small clear silvery stream, trickling down amongst the vegetation, forms an agreeable contrast with the foaming cataract at its side. In the foreground are specimens of the Vacoua tree, of which the roots are very peculiar: its long narrow leaves, after being dried, are plaited together, and formed into bags, in which the sugar is packed, instead of in hogsheads, as in the West Indies. The tree is, in other respects, useless, the wood being soft and porous, and too full of sap to be available even for fuel.



# IN THE DISTRICT OF MOKA.

Moka is, by the high road, seven miles south of Port Louis, though across the "Pouce" it is not more than a third of the distance. Amongst its residents are many of the civil and staff officers of the government, to whom it has a two-fold attraction, arising from its being in the immediate neighbourhood of the "Réduit," the ordinary abode of the Governor, and the comparative coolness of the atmosphere, of which the temperature is in general from six to seven degrees lower than in Port Louis; this, however, arises in a great measure from damp. Most of the houses have a fire-place in one of the sitting rooms, for there are many evenings, in the cool season, when a fire is highly acceptable. Moka is upon a level with the summit of the signal hill of Port Louis, "Morne de la Découverte," which is 1151 feet above the plain below. In this view is exhibited the reverse side of the "Pouce," the "Pieter Both," and the "Montagne des deux Mammelles." There is a zigzag road cut in the solid rock, which leads across the "Pouce," into Port Louis: it is only available for foot passengers, but the actual distance being so short, negro messengers, sometimes heavily laden, are continually passing and repassing to and from the town, though a European, proceeding by this steep and rugged path, would find it a fatiguing day's journey.



## AT "LA RIVIÈRE NOIRE."

In this view, which was taken near the residence of Monsieur Genève, at "la Rivière Noire," part of the encampment of negro huts, belonging to his establishment, appears amongst the grove of cocoa trees in the middle ground. These huts are in general built with bamboo, and with palisades made from the stalk of the aloe, the interstices being filled up with moistened clay. They are thatched with the long grass called euscus. It will readily be imagined that this fragile sort of structure is not calculated to resist the violent storms of wind and rain, which so frequently occur in tropical climates, and, in fact, a hurricane generally levels them all with the earth; they are, however, very simple in their construction, and, the materials being always at hand, they are quickly rebuilt. The range of hills, of which the principal is the "Piton de la Rivière Noire," terminates in the "Morne Seç," a rocky bluff point on the right.



## NEAR "MON PLAISIR," PAMPLEMOUSSES.

This view is in the neighbourhood of "Mon Plaisir," and near the Botanical Gardens. "Mon Plaisir" is a government establishment, and was formerly the residence of the Commander of the Forces, but it is now occupied by the Chief Judge. It is distant about seven miles from Port Louis. The Botanical Gardens are immediately adjoining the grounds of "Mon Plaisir;" the principal part of the trees in the middle ground are in these gardens, which are kept up at the expense of government, and are of considerable extent; they contain a large collection of plants and shrubs, from all parts of the world, which, for the most part, flourish luxuriantly. In the back-ground are the "Pieter Both," the "Montagne des deux Mammelles," and the "Morne aux Prêtres," with a distant peep of the "Pouce," through an opening called "la fenêtre," between the "Morne aux Prêtres and the adjoining peak.



## MORNE BRABANT

*(District of "La Savanne.")*

The rocky mountain, so called, is very remarkable, both from the singularity of its form and the peculiarity of its situation; it rises, in an abrupt manner, partly out of the sea, and partly from the flat sandy beach. Its height is considerable, being nearly 2000 feet above the level of the sea. It is seen from a great distance, and serves as a conspicuous landmark to vessels approaching the island on the leeward side. In the outline of the rock, on the side next the sea, the traveller is shown a supposed resemblance to the profile of Louis XVIII. The small island, on this side of the Morne Brabant, is called "L' Île aux Fourneaux," upon which a signal station is established. The beach, in this and other parts of the "Savanne" district, is covered with marine shrubs, which grow down to the water's edge.



## MOUTH OF "LA GRANDE RIVIÈRE."

This view was taken from the cliff on the eastern side of the bay of Grande Rivière, near an establishment called "La Ménagerie." The principal part of the village is on the opposite bank; on the mount, above the trees to the left, is a small dismantled fort; near the mouth of the river on the right is the Civil Hospital, a long flat-roofed building, which is open to the reception of patients of every class, to the number of about 150: for the military an hospital is provided in Port Louis. A large building, on the summit of the bank to the right of the hospital, is a private dwelling-house, built a few years back by an English merchant; it commands a beautiful and extensive view; the neighbourhood of Grande Rivière is much frequented by those whose official or commercial occupations require daily attendance in Port Louis. The high road to Mahébourg, the south-eastern port, lies through the village of Grande Rivière, traversing the Plaines Wilhems. In the distance is the "Corps de Garde," to the right of which are the "Montagnes des Plaines St. Pierre."



# IN THE DISTRICT OF "LA SAVANNE."

Although the interior of the Savanne district is extremely picturesque, the direct road in making the tour of the island, which follows the line of the coast, is dreary and uninteresting. After traversing a plain of considerable extent, a sudden ascent affords the traveller an extensive view of the distant country, through which he has passed, bounded by a fine mountainous background. On the left, rising abruptly from the sandy beach, is the "Montagne du Tamarind," a considerable mountain in the district of "La Rivière Noire;" to the right of this are the Montagnes "du Rempart." and "des trois Mammelles." There is a small island on the left, thickly covered with cocoa-trees, whence it is named, "L' Île aux Cocotiers."



## PORT LOUIS, FROM "LA PETITE MONTAGNE."

*(Twilight.)*

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Along the eastern side of the "Champ de Mars," in the rear of the town, is a low range of hills called "La Petite Montagne," from the summit of which the present bird's-eye view of the town, harbour, &c. was taken. The "Champ de Mars," after sunset, is the resort of nearly the whole of the white population of Port Louis, who, either in open carriages, on horseback, or in promenading parties, remain till a late hour, enjoying the cool refreshing evening breeze. The view being taken at twilight, the buildings are necessarily indistinct, and do not require a particular description; the Roman Catholic Chapel on the right, however, with its low tower, may be easily distinguished; the mouth of the harbour, and one of the forts at its entrance, with the outer anchorage, are visible in the distance.



## "CASCADE DU TAMARIN."

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This Cascade presents a splendid coup d'œil, which is much enhanced by the sudden manner in which it bursts upon the view. After passing, for a considerable distance, through a thick wood, an abrupt turn brings the traveller to a point on the brow of a precipice, whence a fine view of the Cascade, as represented in the plate, is obtained; from this point, also, may be seen the whole ravine, which is richly wooded throughout, and of vast extent.